

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Bill will be introduced only after the proposed amendments are finalised after inter-ministerial consultations and approved.

(c) Steps proposed to help the tobacco farmers include:

(a) Assisting farmers in obtaining crop loans from the banks.

(b) Advising the banks not to recover past crop loan advances from the tobacco farmers' sales of the first two lots put for sale at the auctions.

(c) Extending help in insuring tobacco curing barns with the Insurance Companies operating in tobacco areas.

(d) Arranging supply of inputs like genuine and approved seeds, fertilisers, irrigation equipment, pesticides, suckericides, coal, briquettes, tarpaulins, and spraying equipment to tobacco farmers.

Admissions in Masters Programme in International Trade

1565. SHRI R.N. ARYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) organises courses in Masters Programme in International Trade (EMIT) every year;

(b) if so, year-wise number of persons enrolled for the above courses during the last five years and persons belonging to the SCs/ STs among them and their percentage as compared to the total number; and

(c) the reasons, if adequate number of persons have not been enrolled for the above courses?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

[7 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) The details are as under:—

Sl. No.	Session	No. of Participants	No. of SOST participants	Percentage of SOST Participants
1.	1996	36	—	—
2.	1997	40	1	2.5
3.	1998	38	—	—
4.	1999	45	—	—
5.	2000	33	—	—

(c) No application was received from SOST candidates during the years 1996, 1998, 1999 and 2000. Only one application falling under this category was received in 1997.

Operation of Vacancy based Rosters

1566. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court in the case of R.K. Sabharwal Vs State of Punjab has held that 'Vacancy Based Rosters' can operate only till such time the representation of persons belonging to reserved categories reaches the prescribed percentage of reservation; and

(b) if so, the services i.e. Class, I II, III and IV, under the Ministry of Commerce where the representation of persons belonging to SOST categories has reached the prescribed percentage of reservation and because of which 'Post Based Rosters' have been introduced in place of 'Vacancy Based Rosters'?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) It may be mentioned that as per the Supreme Court's Judgement in the R.K. Sabharwal case, reservation has to be with reference to posts and not vacancies. In terms of Office Memorandum dated 2nd July, 1997 from